Saturday, October 4, 1997

Guitar Wizards

Introduction.....Jim Albertson

Steve Byrne

The Down Jersey Guitars

I N T E R M I S S I O N

Jim Albertson

Rolly Brown

Mark Cosgrove

Mark Cosgrove & Rolly Brown

Grand Finale.....All musicians

Jim Albertson presents programs of traditional folk songs, ballads and folk tales gathered from a wide range of experiences. For many years he was active as a teacher of the speech arts, oral interpretation, acting, theatre arts and as an actor and director for community theatre projects. All are encouraged to participate in various chorus parts and the laughter and good will provided by the material.

Steve Byrne has spent a lifetime devoted to old country blues style guitar. For the audience, his musical presentations are like stepping into a time machine and being transported back to the days when acoustic flat top guitar was king. Steve also masterfully recreates the old time vocal sounds. He is a well known performer at festivals and clubs up and down the east coast.

The Down Jersey Guitars meet regularly with other instrumentalists to share their music at the Down Jersey Folklife Center at Wheaton Village. Sitting in tonight will be Greg Banks, Bill Watson, Terry Bennett, Francois Boduim, Jack Shortlidge, and Jim Albertson.

Mark Cosgrove is the 1995 National Flatpicking Guitar Champion. For anyone not familiar with this style, a flat plastic guitar pick is held between the thumb and finger of one hand and moved rapidly back and forth against the strings. The fingers of the other hand play the notes and chords up and down the neck of the guitar. Mark is a master of this style and can play clean notes at breakneck speeds.

Rolly Brown, a former winner of the National Finger Picking Guitar Championship, plays the strings with thumb and fingers in a rolling style in which melody and passing chords are preeminent over speed. He includes folk, blues, ragtime, country and jazz material in his set. In addition to performing as a soloist, he has also done studio and live sideman chores and, has served the area as a venerated guitar teacher.